

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-13 ADP-00 PRS-01 H-03 PA-03 CIAE-00

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S/PRS - MR. BRAY (INFO)

IO/P - MR. BLACHLY

AF/P - MR. RUSSELL

H - MISS FOLGER

EUR/P - MR. SAVAGE

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P 242032Z JUL 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

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E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJ: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING IS PARTIAL
EXCERPT FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S PRESS BRIEFING JULY 24,
1973:

QUOTE: Q. WHAT IS THE SHAH DOING IN WASHINGTON, WHAT DO
YOU UNDERSTAND TO BE HIS MAJOR AIMS AND OUR MAJOR INTERESTS
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IN TALKING TO HIM?

A. WELL, I WOULD, FIRST OF ALL, NOTE THAT WE HAVE HAD LONG AND VERY FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH IRAN. THE SHAHANSHAH HAS VISITED WASHINGTON ON OTHER OCCASIONS, AND I WOULD PUT HIS VISIT HERE IN THAT CONTEXT.

Q. HOW ABOUT THE ARMS SITUATION? IS HE GOING TO GO HOME WITH PROMISES OF NEW AIRPLANES OR TANKS OR SABERS OR SOMETHING?

A. WELL, WITHOUT ANSWERING YOUR QUESTION SPECIFICALLY, I WOULD ASSUME THAT THE QUESTION OF OUR ARMS RELATIONSHIP WITH IRAN WOULD OBVIOUSLY BE DISCUSSED IN THE COURSE OF HIS VISIT HERE IN WASHINGTON.

Q. WHAT ABOUT THE QUESTION OF SECURITY IN THE PERSIAN GULF? HAVE YOU ANY GENERAL COMMENTS TO MAKE ABOUT THAT FOLLOWING THE DEPARTURE OF THE BRITISH EAST OF SUEZ AND THE STEPS WHICH IRAN MIGHT BE TAKING TO IMPROVE ITS DEFENSES WITH A VIEW TO KEEPING THE SITUATION STABLE THERE?

A. NO, I WOULDN'T HAVE ANY FURTHER COMMENT TO PROVIDE YOU TODAY. WE DID DISCUSS IT HERE ON AN EARLIER OCCASION. SUBSEQUENT TO OUR CONVERSATIONS HERE IN THIS ROOM, MR. SISCO TESTIFIED ON THIS MATTER, AND I'LL BE HAPPY TO TRY AND OBTAIN A TRANSCRIPT OF HIS REMARKS, WHICH I THINK IS THE LATEST FORMULATION OF THE ADMINISTRATIONS POSITION.

Q. DOES THE STATE DEPARTMENT HAVE ANY POSITION ON WHETHER OR NOT IT WOULD BE WISE TO SUPPLY IRAN WITH AN AIRPLANE WHICH, AS FAR AS I KNOW, WE DON'T EVEN USE YET OURSELVES, CALLED THE F-14?

A. WELL, I WOULD SAY THIS, THAT WE WOULD EXPECT THAT CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS WITH RESPECT TO THIS PARTICULAR AIRCRAFT WILL BE DISCUSSED.

Q. CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS?

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A. WELL, IT'S AN AIRPLANE WHICH IS STILL BEING DEVELOPED, AS I UNDERSTAND. I'M NOT SURE IF IT'S COMPLETELY OPERATIONAL PLANE AT THE PRESENT TIME. BUT, IN ANY EVENT, I WOULD JUST SAY THAT AS OF THIS TIME NO DECISIONS HAVE BEEN MADE. WE HAVE PROVIDED INFORMATION ABOUT THESE AIRCRAFT TO IRAN.

Q. THE QUESTION WAS WHETHER IT WOULD BE WISE. IT HAS AL-

WAYS BEEN ASSUMED THAT IT WOULD BE WISE TO PROVIDE THE SHAH WITH ALMOST ANYTHING HE WANTED. BUT IN VIEW OF THE SITUATION WHERE THE MARINE CORPS CAN'T EVEN GET F-14'S, TOMCATS, MY QUESTION WOULD BE, "WOULD IT BE POSSIBLE TO SUPPLY HIM WITH F-14'S OR F-15'S AT ANY TIME WITHIN THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE?

A. WELL, AS A PRACTICAL MATTER, I BELIEVE THE F-14, AS I JUST MENTIONED, IS JUST ENTERING OUR OPERATIONAL INVENTORIES. THE F-15 IS STILL BEING TESTED. I CAN'T GIVE YOU A TIMEFRAME AS TO WHEN, IF ANY DECISIONS WERE REACHED ON THIS MATTER, WHEN THEY MIGHT, IN FACT, BECOME AVAILABLE.

Q. IS THE STATE DEPARTMENT AWARE AS TO WHETHER OR NOT IRAQ OR ANY OTHER FRIENDLY OR UNFRIENDLY NEIGHBOR OF IRAN HAS ANY KIND OF AIRCRAFT WITH THAT DEGREE OF SOPHISTICATION? TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE, THE BEST THE IRAQIS HAVE IS THE MIG 21.

A. I REALLY CAN'T ANSWER YOUR QUESTION.

Q. A DISCUSSION CAME UP A WHILE BACK WHEN WE WERE DISCUSSING ARMS TO IRAN AS TO WHY IT IS IN THE U.S. NATIONAL INTEREST TO HAVE A STRONG IRAN, AND WHY THE UNITED STATES SEES IRAN'S DEFENSE NEEDS IN THE SAME WAY THAT IRAN SEES ITS DEFENSE NEEDS. DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING MORE ON THAT THAN YOU WERE ABLE TO GIVE US THE LAST TIME?

A. NO, NOTHING BEYOND WHAT I SAID BEFORE, AND WHAT WAS SUBSEQUENTLY SAID BY MR. SISCO ON THE HILL.

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